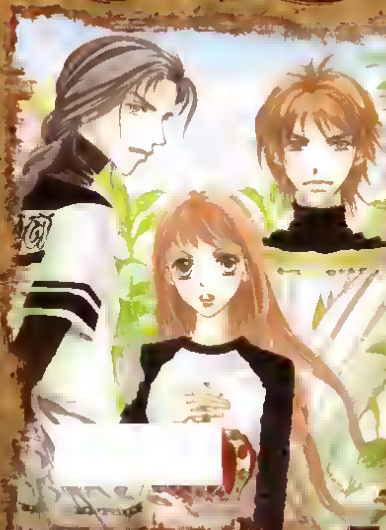
The Queen's Knight



Kim Kang Won

7

WAS THAT THE QUEEN SCREAMING?!

AIIIIIEEEE!!
YUNA!!
THAT IS YUNA'S VOICE!
YOUR MAJESTY!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
YUNA!!
WHOA!!
두두두두
I'M COMING, YUNA!

HEE-YAAAH!!
YUNA...!
HUP!
HEE-YAAH...!!

WHOA, NOW!
WHOA...!

WHY ARE YOU BLOCKING ME? MOVE ASIDE!
THIS IS NONE OF YOUR CONCERN!

WE FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT YOU, SCHILLER. THE PATH AHEAD IS TOO DANGEROUS...SO YOU'D BETTER TURN AROUND NOW!
OH NO? THEN JUST WATCH ME!
YOU CANNOT GO INTO THE INNERMOST REGION OF THE FOREST OF DARKNESS...!
THE QUEEN IS IN DANGER! IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO HER...
SORRY, SCHILLER. DON'T HOLD IT AGAINST US...
IT'S ONLY BECAUSE WE WERE REQUESTED TO KEEP YOU FROM HARM'S WAY...
YOU

LET GO OF ME! I AM ONE OF THE QUEEN'S SWORN PROTECTORS!
I MUST SAVE YUNA...!!
NO...
YUNA...
YUNA...!

LOOK, YOU UGLY LITTLE...I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS NOW!!
HERE I GO!
YUNA'S IN TROUBLE...
...SO I PITY ANYONE OR THING THAT TRIES TO KEEP ME FROM HER!
UNH...!
CRAP!
YUNA!!

YOU FILTHY--!!
THAT'LL TEACH YOU TO STAND IN THE WAY OF A LOYAL SUBJECT AND HIS QUEEN!!
HANG ON, YUNA!
I'M ON MY WAY!!
두두두두
HEEEELP!!
I'M HERE, YUNA!! I'M--

OH NO... YUKA!! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

UH-HUH...
ARE YOU INSURED?!
I-I'M OKAY... REALLY...
PHEW...
SERIOUSLY...IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO YOU...I'D PROBABLY LOSE MY MIND...
HUH?

NO...! THE HORSE RAN AWAY!!
WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE OF GETTING OUT OF HERE WITHOUT A HORSE.
DAMN .
U-UM. EH-EHREN ? WE HAVE COMPANY...
WHAT ..ARE THEY? I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH BEINGS BEFORE..

EEEEEK!! EHREN!!
OVER THERE..!!
LEON!
LEON!
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO FOUGHT AGAINST THIS BY YOURSELF...
BY GOD, HE'S AN AMAZING FELLOW !

LEON...
LEON.. COME ON.. GET UP...
LEON..
YUNA--
THE QUEEN IS IN DANGER!!
YOU FOOL. YOU CAN'T GO! IF YOU KEEP MOVING WITH THE WOUNDS THAT YOU HAVE...
LET GO!!
I DON'T CARE! LET GO, DAMMIT! I'M GONNA GO FIND THE QUEEN!
I'M SUPPOSED TO PROTECT HER-- BUT LOOK AT ME! I'M PATHETIC! NO! DON'T TOUCH ME!
THE SOLDIERS AND THE KNIGHTS HAVE ALREADY GONE AFTER THE QUEEN! THEY SEARCH THE GROUNDS AS WE SPEAK!
SHE'S IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FOREST! DO YOU HEAR?! THE MIDDLE! SHE'S PROBABLY FACING UNSPEAKABLE HORRORS! THIS VERY M NUTE!
WAIT...DID YOU SAY..
...THE QUEEN VENTURED INTO THE MIDDLE OF THE FOREST?

STAY CLOSE TO ME, YUNA!
I KEEP CUTTING THEM DOWN... HUFF...BUT THERE'S NO END TO THEM...
THEY JUST SEEM TO BE GROWING LARGER IN NUMBER...
DON'T...M-MOVE. JUST...JUST ST-STAY STILL...!
EHREN...EVEN IF I HADN'T HAVE...PAINT LOST MY GRIP ON THAT DAGGER.
IF WE...CAN JUST HOLD OUT A BIT LONGER...THEN HELP MAY ARRIVE...
HANG IN THERE!
EHREN!!
S-BUT..
UGHH!!

NO...
I DON'T WANNA!
I DON'T WANNA!
I HATE THIS!
PLEASE HELP US...
ANYONE... PLEASE JUST HELP US...
HELP ME...

HAH!

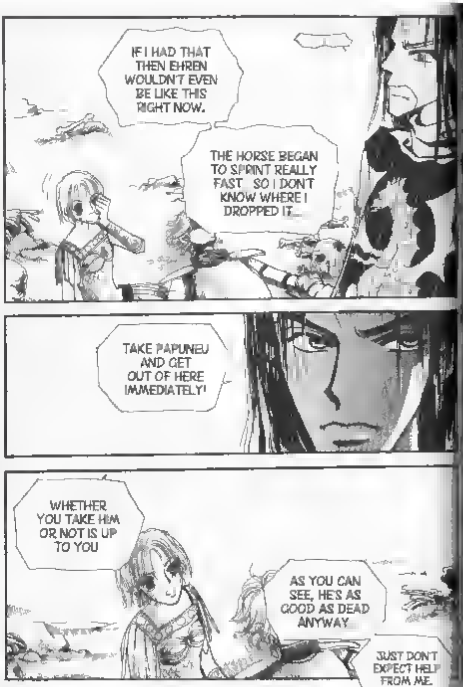
RIENO!!
EHREN!
EHREN, WAKE UP!

COME ON, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! EVEN I CAN'T HOLD THEM BACK FOREVER!

HELP ME...! EHREN IS REALLY HURT! HE'S BLEEDING A LOT!
EHREN, WAKE UP! EHREN!!

LET'S SEE.. THREE OF US..ONE HORSE. DOESN'T EXACTLY ADD UP, DOES IT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! ARE YOU SAYING THAT WE SHOULD LEAVE EHREN?!
IF YOU WISH TO LIVE.. THEN YOU NEED TO LISTEN TO ME.
YUNA...G-GO ON...
L-LISTEN TO HIM...
EHREN...!
.....!
COME...
LET GO! LET GO OF ME! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
LET GO! I CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM HERE!
I ORDER YOU TO PUT ME DOWN!
LET GO!
EHREN!
FOOLISH GIRL...! DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHERE THIS IS?!
THIS IS NOT A PLACE FOR THE LIVING!

LET GO, I SAID!
WHY CAN'T YOU JUST HELP ME, HUH?
YOU SEE?! THIS IS WH I DON'T LIK YOU!!
IF YOU WANNA GO, THEN GO BY YOURSELF IF I CAN'T GO WITH EHREN, THEN I WON'T GO AT ALL!
I...KINDA LOST IT...
YOU HAVE THE DAGGER THAT I GAVE YOU, RIGHT?
YOU WHAT?!


IF I HAD THAT THEN EHREN WOULDN'T EVEN BE LIKE THIS RIGHT NOW.
THE HORSE BEGAN TO SPRINT REALLY FAST. SO I DON'T KNOW WHERE I DROPPED IT...
TAKE PAPUNEU AND GET OUT OF HERE IMMEDIATELY!
WHETHER YOU TAKE HIM OR NOT IS UP TO YOU
AS YOU CAN SEE, HE'S AS GOOD AS DEAD ANYWAY
JUST DON'T EXPECT HELP FROM ME.
AS YOU CAN SEE, MY HANDS ARE PRESENTLY FULL...
HO... YOU'RE ALREADY HERE!
.....
.....
.....

...!!
AH...
RIENO...

KIENO...
AH..!
THERE SHE IS.
KILL HER...
KILL HER!!
YUNA, CATCH THIS...!!

UNSHEATHE THE SWORD!
……!!
툭!

KILL.
KILL HER...
KILL HER!!
KILL HER!!
SHRIEKKK!!
NO.
OUCH!
UNSHEATHE THE SWORD!
I NEED TO...UN-UNSHEATHE...

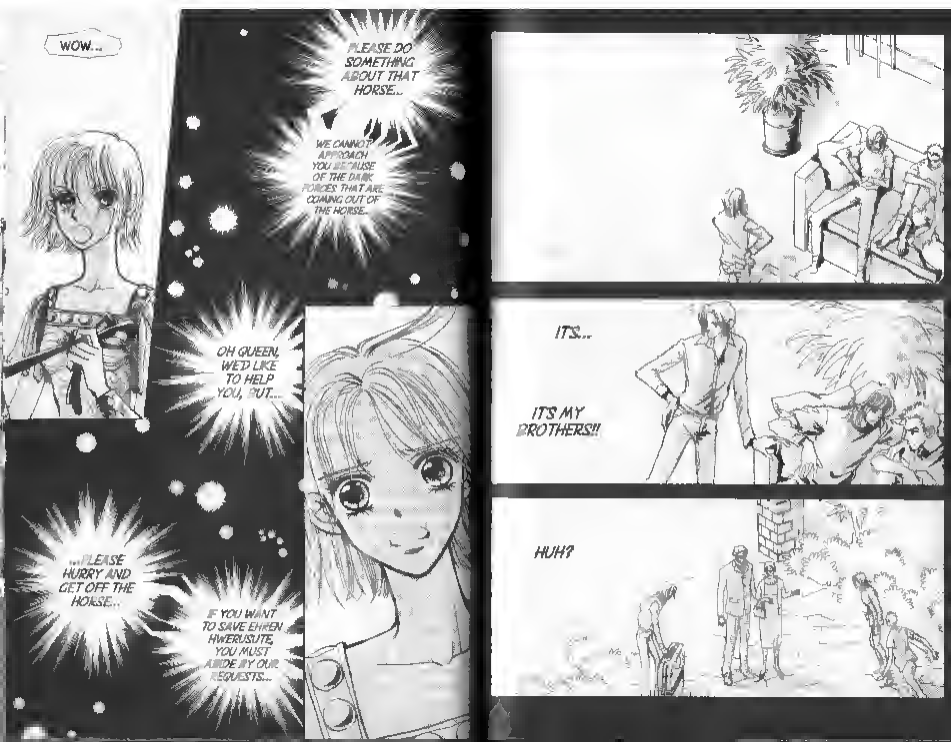
KILL..!
I C-CAN'T... M-MOVE MY BODY...
WHAT'S THAT IN THE...?
NO ..IT CAN'T BE..!
THATS THE...!!
AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!

IT WORKED?!
BUT...IT'S JUST A WOODEN SWORD...
RIENO!!
PAPUNEU
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?!
HOLD ON, EHREN.
BUT HOW AM I GONNA PUT HIM ON THE HORSE? EHREN...? EHREN! WAKE UP!
NEIGHHH
BEAUTIFUL MANNERS
PAPUNEU
I'VE CAUGHT WORSE

SNIFF!
THERE'S NO TIME TO CRY...!
OKAY, PAPUNEU--
LET'S RIDE!!
ALMOST THERE... PLEASE DON'T DIE...!

IF YOU DIE, I'M NEVER GOING TO FORGIVE YOU!!
DON'T DIE...
DON'T DIE... NENO...

HUFF
HUFF
GO AWAY!
LEAVE US ALONE!
WAIT...
WAIT...
STOP...
WE ARE NOT OF THE DARKNESS.
AND PLEASE DON'T SWING THAT SWORD AROUND ANY MORE...!
WHOA! WHOA!


WOW...
PLEASE DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT HORSE...
WE CANNOT APPROACH YOU BECAUSE OF THE DARK FORCES THAT ARE COMING OUT OF THE HORSE...
OH QUEEN, WE'D LIKE TO HELP YOU, BUT...
...PLEASE HURRY AND GET OFF THE HORSE...
IF YOU WANT TO SAVE EHEEN HWERUSUITE, YOU MUST ABIDE BY OUR REQUESTS...
ITS...
IT'S MY BROTHERS!!
HUH?

DAD, MOM— IT'S ME! YUNA!
IT'S ME, YUNA!!
NO! DON'T GO!
MOM...?
DAD...?
DON'T LEAVE ME...

MOM? DAD ..?
WHAT ABOUT MY BROTHER!...?
IT...IT WASN'T ...A DREAM, WAS IT?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S REAL... AND WHAT'S NOT ..

YOUR MAJESTY... YOU'RE AWAKE, I SEE.
MY NAME IS HEMEL... I AM ONE OF THE ELDERS HERE IN THE VILLAGE OF SCHWER.
OH! YOUR MAJESTY... YOU'LL PROBABLY NEED A DAY OR SO IN ORDER FOR YOUR WOUNDS TO HEAL.
HEMEL...
HEMEL'S SLEEPING PILLS?
WHY DON'T YOU GO OUTSIDE?
GRANDFATHER, YOU ALWAYS RUIN THE MOMENT...
PLEASE DON'T SAY ANYTHING THAT'S... UNNECESSARY

JUST GET TO THE POINT! THE POINT!
GOT IT?
YOUR MAJESTY, PLEASE FREE SCHILLER FROM HIS DUTIES AS ONE OF YOUR GUARDIAN KNIGHTS TEMPORARILY.
HIS POWERS ARE NEEDED TO SAVE EHREN HWERUSUTE.
EHREN... WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?!
THROUGH THE USE OF SOME SECRET MEDICINES, HIS PHYSICAL WOUNDS ARE ALL RIGHT, BUT HIS CONSCIOUSNESS IS TOO FAR GONE...

WHAT?
SCHILLER MUST TAKE EHREN HWERUSUTE INTO THE FAIRY FOREST...
...AND PERFORM A RITE IN ORDER TO BRING BACK HIS CONSCIOUSNESS.
THIS IS VERY DANGEROUS, SO NO ONE VOLUNTEERS TO PERFORM THE RITE.
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE, YOU CAN EVEN LOSE YOUR OWN SOUL...
THAT SAID—SCHILLER VOLUNTEERED FOR THE TASK IMMEDIATELY

BUT...IF HE HIMSELF CAN LOSE HIS OWN SOUL...
...WHY WOULD SCHILLER PERFORM SUCH A DANGEROUS TASK FOR EHREN?
IT IS PROBABLY BECAUSE...
...WELL...
...I BELIEVE THE REASON LIES WITH YOU. WHY DON'T YOU FEEL YOUR HAIR...?

HOW CAN THIS BE?! HOW DID ..?! MY HAIR GREW AGAIN?!
ERM, DID I TAKE YOUR SLEEPING PILLS AGAIN...?
NOPE
SCHILLER...
WHY...?
WHY DID YOU VOLUNTEER?
YOU SHOULD GO BACK.
IN FOUR DAYS, I SHALL RETURN WITH EHREN.
YOU ARE A WOMAN OF MANY TEARS.
I WAS TOLD IT PLACES YOU AT RISK, TOO.
WHY WOULD YOU..?

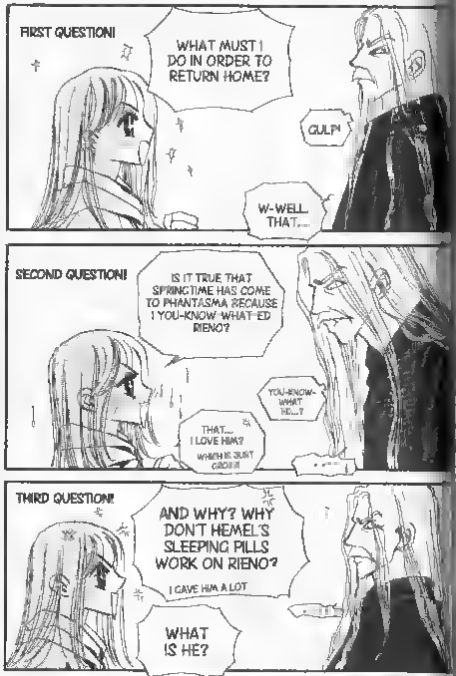
IN CALLING BACK THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL, YOU NEED TO HAVE A WILL THAT IS STRONG ENOUGH TO ANCHOR IT.
IN OTHER WORDS... YOU HAVE TO HAVE A STRONG DESIRE FOR THE PERSON TO LIVE.
YOU DO NOT WANT TO LOSE EHREN...
B-BUT...I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO HAPPEN TO YOU...
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I WILL NOT LOSE HOLD OF HIS SOUL. SO DON'T WORRY, MY QUEEN.
YOUR WORDS COMFORT ME...
TO HAVE YOUR HAIR GROW THIS FAST...I NEVER COULD HAVE IMAGINED.
WHENEVER THE QUEEN OF PHANTASMA FEELS TRUE LOVE, THEY UNDERGO A PHYSICAL GROWTH.
AS YOUR GUARDIAN KNIGHT...
...I WANT TO PROTECT THE CAUSE OF YOUR GROWTH.

WITH THIS KISS.. PLEASE REMEMBER MY LOVE.
BE SAFE, SCHILLER!
HURRY BACK!
OY! GODSPEED, SIR!

GRANDPA WEMEL...
ONLY CUT HER BANGS.
HAVE YOU SEEN MY SWORD? IT'S MADE OUT OF WOOD ..
AH...THAT IT IS A RARE AND UNCOMMON SWORD... BUT THERE WAS NO SHEATH FOR IT
SO IN ORDER TO MAKE THE SHEATH...
IT'S NOT MINE, YOU SEE. I MUST RETURN IT TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER.
HO., IS THAT SO?
THERE ARE NOT THAT MANY PEOPLE WHO WOULD POSSESS SUCH A THING. PRAY TELL...WHO WOULD THIS OWNER BE? HMM?

RIENO GAVE IT TO ME.
R-RIENO... GAVE HER MAJESTY THAT SWORD?
WHEN DID...?
IN THE FOREST OF DARKNESS. WHILE EHREN AND I WERE BEING ATTACKED BY THE BEASTS.
WAS NOT EHREN HWERUSUTE THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS WITH HER MAJESTY IN THE FOREST OF DARKNESS?

WHAT?
ELDER. THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE QUEEN'S DEPARTURE HAVE BEEN MADE.
EXCELLENT. THE FAIRIES OF LIGHT SHALL SAFELY ESCORT YOU BACK TO YOUR HUNTING ENCAMPMENT..
WAIT JUST A MINUTE, GRANDPA!
THERE ARE A COUPLE OF THINGS THAT I NEED TO KNOW!


FIRST QUESTION!
WHAT MUST I DO IN ORDER TO RETURN HOME?
GULP!
W-WELL THAT...
SECOND QUESTION!
IS IT TRUE THAT SPRINGTIME HAS COME TO PHANTASMA BECAUSE I YOU-KNOW-WHAT-ED RIENO?
YOU-KNOW-WHAT HE...?
THAT... I LOVE HIM?
WHEN HE JUST CROSS
THIRD QUESTION!
AND WHY? WHY DON'T HEMEL'S SLEEPING PILLS WORK ON RIENO?
I GAVE HIM A LOT
WHAT IS HE?

I LEARNED A LONG TIME AGO THAT IF I JUST MET WITH THIS PERSON NAMED HEMEL, I WOULD RECEIVE ALL THE ANSWERS.
TELL ME... PLEASE...
IF YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MADE THAT STRANGE YET AMAZING SLEEPING PILL, THEN I'M SURE YOU CAN ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS FOR ME!

YOUR MAJESTY, I APOLOGIZE...BUT YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT HAS ALREADY GROWN TOO OLD...I'M AFRAID I DON'T REALLY RECALL...
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?!
BUT...I DO KNOW A LITTLE BIT IN REGARDS TO THE SECOND QUESTION. THE REASON WHY SPRINGTIME COMES TO PHANTASMA...
– IS NOT BECAUSE "THE QUEEN LIKES RIENO" BUT BECAUSE "THE QUEEN'S HEART IS FILLED WITH LOVE."
WHAT...?

EVEN IF THE PERSON OF YOUR DESIRE IS NOT RENO...AS LONG AS YOU ARE IN LOVE, IT IS POSSIBLE.
TELL ME...WHAT DO YOU THINK OF SCHILLER?
IF YOU GET TO KNOW HIM...HIS MANNERS WITH THE LADIES ARE FLAWLESS THE REST IN ALL OF PHANTASMA.
GIVE IT A REST!
YOU WOULD KNOW IF YOU ENTERED INTO A DEEP RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.

WHO GOES THERE?!
IDENTIFY YOURSELF!
IT'S ME, YUNA. HI.
YOUR MAJESTY!!
YOUR MAJESTY, WHAT HAPPENED?!
YOU ARE SAFE!
WHAT A RELIEF!
YOUR MAJESTY, WHAT IN THE WOR...?!

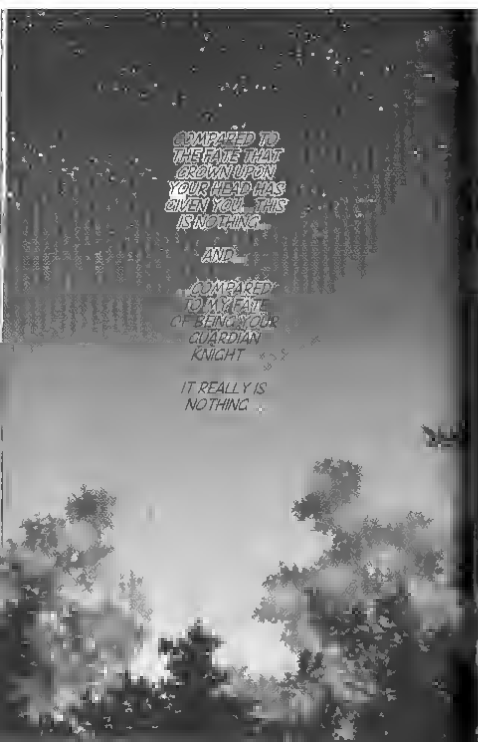
OH...!
I REALLY WORRIED ALL OF YOU, DIDN'T I?
I'M OKAY
HER MAJESTY'S HAIR!
DID YOU SEE? DID YOU? HER MAJESTY'S HAIR GREW LONGER.
I HEARD THAT IF YOU ARE OF THE ROYAL BLOODLINE, YOU HAVE THE POWER OF GROWTH.
NO...NO WAY IS IT POSSIBLE THAT SHE UNDERWENT SUCH A GROWTH!

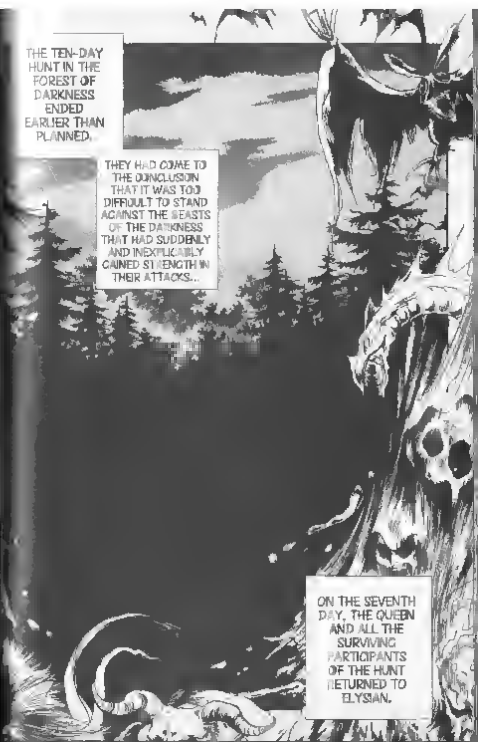
RIGHT NOW, THE FOREST OF DARKNESS IS LIKE A BEEHIVE, BUZZING WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MONSTERS AND BEASTS.
WE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO RETREAT FROM THE FOREST.
ON TOP OF THAT, LEON IS BADLY HURT...WHICH IS A CAUSE FOR WORRY.
OH, BY THE WAY...HAVE YOU SEEN EHREN AND SCHILLER?
I HAVEN'T SEEN RENO, EITHER.

I'D LIKE TO BE ALONE, HERMENY.
LEON... WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO...?
WHY DO THE BEASTS OF THE DARKNESS EVEN EXIST? I HATE THEM!
BUT THEY ARE NECESSARY, MY QUEEN.
THE WORLD MUST HAVE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE FORCES OF LIGHT AND DARKNESS. ONE CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT THE OTHER.
BUT WE "HUNT" IN ORDER TO RID THE FOREST OF THE BEASTS...

THAT IS JUST MANKIND'S OSTENTATIOUS DISPLAY OF EMPTY FAME!
TO DRIVE THEM OUT... TO DISPLAY THEIR STRENGTH...
THE IMPORTANT THING IS NEITHER LIGHT NOR DARKNESS...
IT IS THE HARMONY BETWEEN LIGHT AND DARKNESS...
SCHILLER, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE DOING THIS...
GIVING UP YOUR LIFE FOR A GUY LIKE HIM!
OF ALL THE KNIGHTS, YOU... HATED EHREN HWERUSUTE THE MOST...
THIS IS MADNESS!
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?!
JUST LEAVE EHREN HWERUSUTE TO HIS FATE! THEN YOU'LL HAVE ONE LESS RIVAL, WOULD YOU NOT?
MOVE. I CAN'T CONCENTRATE.

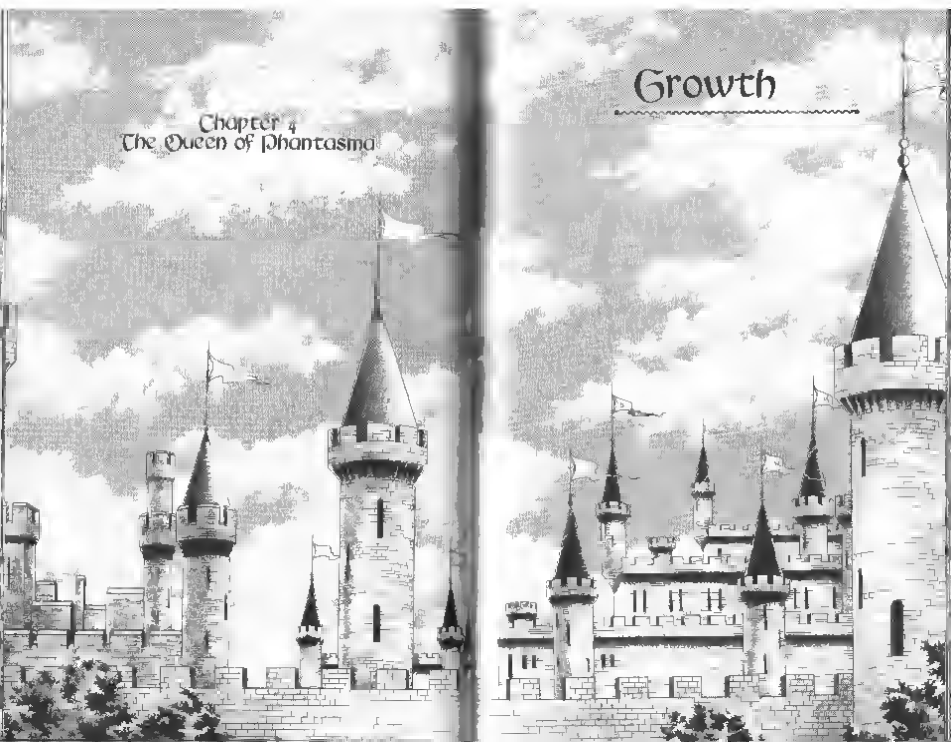
PIG-HEADED...
YOU FOOL, SCHILLER! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!
WHY AM I DOING THIS FUTILE THING...
...FOR EHREN?
CAN YOU CALL THIS LOVE AS WELL?
EVEN THOUGH MY HEART IS CRUMBLING INSIDE ME...!
YUNA...


COMPARED TO THE FATES THAT CROWN UPON YOUR HEAD HAS GIVEN YOU... THIS IS NOTHING...
AND...
COMPARED TO MY FATE OF BEING YOUR GUARDIAN KNIGHT
IT REALLY IS NOTHING...


THE TEN-DAY HUNT IN THE FOREST OF DARKNESS ENDED EARLIER THAN PLANNED.
THEY HAD COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT IT WAS TOO DIFFICULT TO STAND AGAINST THE BEASTS OF THE DARKNESS THAT HAD SUDDENLY AND INEXPLICABLY GAINED STRENGTH IN THEIR ATTACKS...
ON THE SEVENTH DAY, THE QUEEN AND ALL THE SURVIVING PARTICIPANTS OF THE HUNT RETURNED TO ELYSIAN.

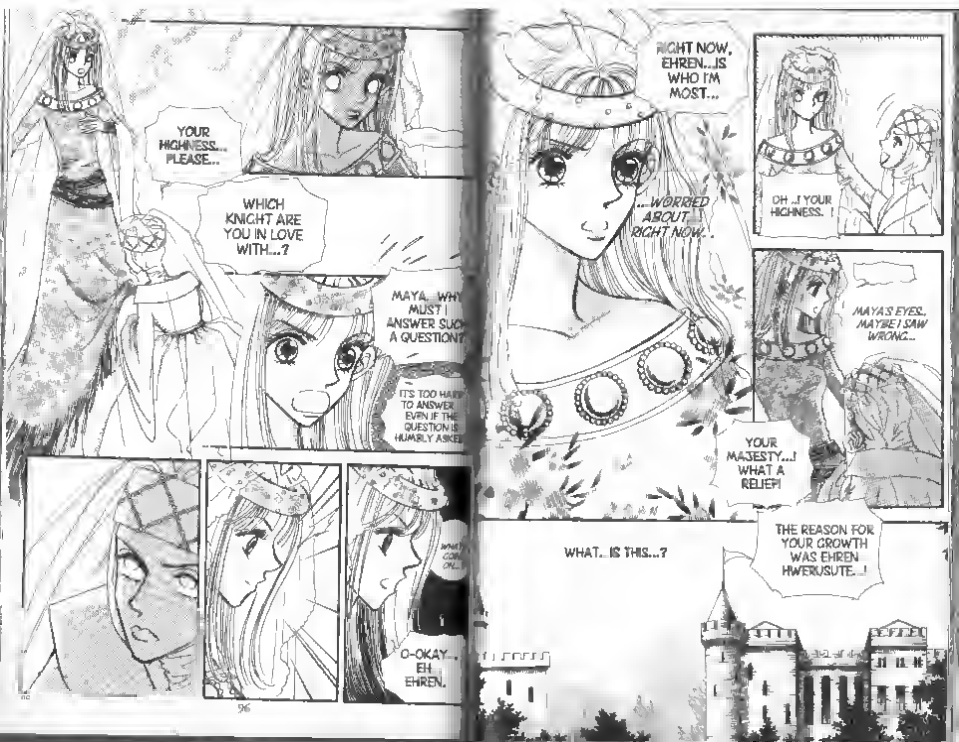
Chapter 4
The Queen of Phantasma

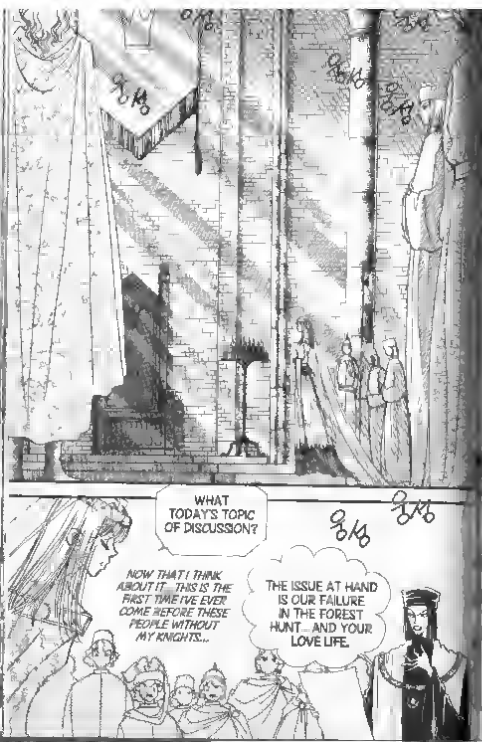
Growth

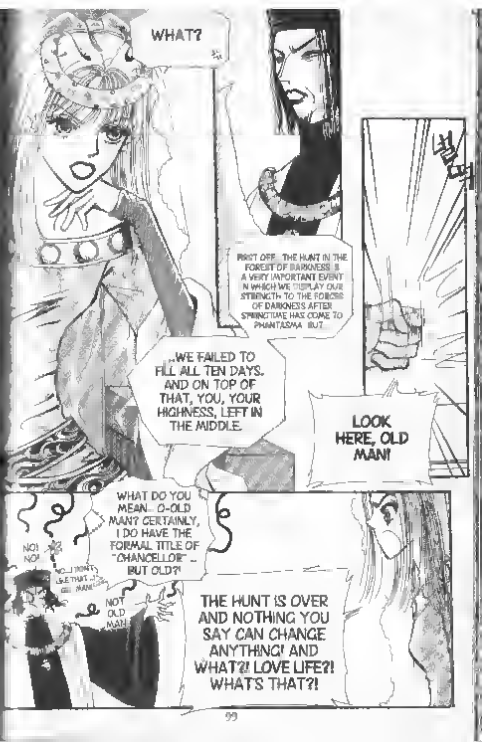


THE PREPARATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE.
MORE THAN THAT.. YOUR MAJESTY.. THERE IS A MATTER OF DISCUSSION THAT MUST NOT BE DELAYED.
WELL, WHAT IS IT ABOUT?
PERHAPS THIS IS A QUESTION THAT IS TOO OFFENSIVE..
PLEASE TELL ME...WHO HAS TAKEN THE BIGGEST PORTION OF YOUR HEART?

IS IT RIENO OF DUNKKAR? IS IT EHREN HWERUSUTE? OR PERHAPS LEON PERUNA OR SCHILLER LIHITE...
WHO...
MAYA...?
PLEASE GIVE ME A CLEAR ANSWER BEFORE YOU LEAVE THIS ROOM.
BECAUSE THAT WILL DETERMINE YOUR DESTINY AS WELL AS OURS...!
PLEASE RESPOND..


YOUR HIGHNESS... PLEASE...
WHICH KNIGHT ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH...?
MAYA... WHY MUST I ANSWER SUCH A QUESTION?
IT'S TOO HARSH TO ANSWER EVEN IF THE QUESTION IS HUMBLY ASKED
WHAT'S GOING ON...
O-OKAY... EH, EHREN.
RIGHT NOW, EHREN...IS WHO I'M MOST...
...WORRIED ABOUT RIGHT NOW.
OH...! YOUR HIGHNESS...!
MAYA'S EYES.. MAYBE I SAW WRONG...
YOUR MAJESTY...! WHAT A RELIEF!
WHAT.. IS THIS...?
THE REASON FOR YOUR GROWTH WAS EHREN HWERUSUTE...!


WHAT TODAY'S TOPIC OF DISCUSSION?
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT... THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER COME BEFORE THESE PEOPLE WITHOUT MY KNIGHTS...
THE ISSUE AT HAND IS OUR FAILURE IN THE FOREST HUNT... AND YOUR LOVE LIFE.


WHAT?
FIRST OFF... THE HUNT IN THE FOREST OF DARKNESS IS A VERY IMPORTANT EVENT IN WHICH WE DISPLAY OUR STRENGTH TO THE FORCES OF DARKNESS AFTER SPRINGTIME HAS COME TO PHANTASMA BUT...
...WE FAILED TO FILL ALL TEN DAYS. AND ON TOP OF THAT, YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS, LEFT IN THE MIDDLE.
LOOK HERE, OLD MAN!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN... O-OLD MAN? CERTAINLY, I DO HAVE THE FORMAL TITLE OF "CHANCELLOR"... BUT OLD?!
NO! NO!
NO... I DON'T LIKE THAT... AT ALL, MAN!
NOT OLD MAN!
THE HUNT IS OVER AND NOTHING YOU SAY CAN CHANGE ANYTHING! AND WHAT?! LOVE LIFE?! WHAT'S THAT?!

PLEASE REVEAL TO US WHO THE OBJECT OF YOUR AFFECTIONS IS.
HMPH! GET A TASTE OF YOUR OWN MEDICINE!
YOUR MAJESTY—THAT IS THE DUTY OF THE QUEEN.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS...! NOW THIS IS JUST GETTING ABSURD. I! QUIT!
THE QUESTION ISN'T EVEN WORTHY OF AN ANSWER!
ONCE YOU BEGIN TO EXPERIENCE THIS GROWTH, YOU ARE OBLIGATED TO REVEAL THE IDENTITY OF THE MAN THAT YOU LOVE.
OUR DESTINY AND VERY FUTURE HANGS IN THE BALANCE. THAT IS WHY THIS IS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE.
ARE THE RUMORS TRUE? IS IT REALLY EHREN HWERUSUTE? YOUR HIGHNESS?

YOUR MAJESTY, YOU MUST REVEAL HIS IDENTITY!
YOUR MAJESTY...!
PLEASE REVEAL HIS IDENTITY!
YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS...!
PERHAPS, YOU HAVE RIENO IN YOUR HEART?
YOUR MAJESTY...IS IT RIENO? OR EHREN?
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS—? THEY'RE CANCING UP ON ME?
YOUR MAJESTY, EHREN HWERUSUTE HAS RETURNED...

EHREN HWEKUSUTE HAS JUST NOW BEEN RESTORED TO FULL HEALTH.
웅성
IT'S EHREN..
EHREN AND THE QUEEN..
WHERE WAS HE ANYWAYS?
YOUR MAJESTY...!
YOUR MAJESTY?
YOUR MAJESTY?! WHERE DID YOU GO?
YOUR MAJESTY... DID YOU SEE? SIR EHREN HWEKUSUTE HAS ARRIVED!
EHREN...
WHEN DID THE QUEEN AND EHREN HWEKUSUTE FALL IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER...?
FINALLY... THE MAIN CHARACTER HAS ARRIVED...
YOUR MAJESTY!
FINALLY! THEY'RE NOT FOLLOWING US ANYMORE! WHAT IS WITH EVERYONE?
WHAT AM I--THEIR PUPPET? WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WOULD WANNA BE THEIR QUEEN?

YOU SUFFERED TERRIBLY, DIDN'T YOU?
NO ..YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, EHREN...
WHAT A RELIEF...
NO...IT'S A BIGGER RELIEF THAT YOU'RE ALL RIGHT...
I'M SORRY...
IF YOU HAD EVEN COME A LITTLE BIT LATER, IT WOULD'VE BEEN HARD FOR ME...
EARLIER... WHEN EVERYONE WAS PROBING ME, I THOUGHT TO MYSELF THAT I'VE ALWAYS HAD YOU KNIGHTS GUARDING ME FROM BEHIND
WHEN THE QUEEN STARTS TO EXPERIENCE THIS GROWTH, EVERYONE BECOMES VERY TENSE AND NERVOUS.
IT MEANS THAT THE GREAT WHEEL OF TIME HAS BEGUN TO TURN FOR PHANTASMA IN THE SPRINGTIME.
IT'S GOING TO BECOME A LOT HARDER FROM NOW ON.
PEOPLE WILL BE WATCHING YOU CONSTANTLY. YOU NEED TO BE WARY OF YOUR ACTIONS...
IN THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES, THE ONLY THING I AM SURE OF IS I DON'T WANT ONE HAIR ON YOUR HEAD TO BE HARMED...

SO FOR NOW, JUST TELL EVERYONE THAT THE PERSON IN YOUR HEART IS ME.
THE TRUE CAUSE OF YOUR GROWTH... IS NOT IMPORTANT TO ME, COMPARED TO YOUR SAFETY...
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST. JUST SAY THAT IT'S ME UNTIL CONTAINING THE TRUTH IN YOUR HEART BECOMES TOO DIFFICULT.
EHREN.
WE NEED MORE TIME...
...IN ORDER TO RIGHT THE WHEEL AND RID PHANTASMA OF THIS CURSE.
SO HELP ME...YUNA...
WILL YOU PROMISE ME, TOO? TO ALWAYS BE BY MY SIDE.
THEN, I'LL BE ABLE TO DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.
BUT MORE THAN ANYTHING, I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE OKAY, EHREN.

WITH NO MEMORY OF HAVING RECEIVED LOVE OR EVER HAVING LOVED ANOTHER, I DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO.
IT'S LIKE A DREAM. THAT YOU'RE ALL RIGHT...
FATHER...IF YOU HAD ONLY TAUGHT ME A LITTLE BIT MORE...
IF ONLY I HAD GREATER STRENGTH THAN WHAT I HAVE NOW...
IF ONLY YOU HAD SPOKEN A BIT MORE ON THE CURSE OF PHANTASMA THAT YOU TRIED SO HARD TO SOLVE.
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN BE WRONG!
I EVEN TESTED HER... AND CONFIRMED IT WITH MY OWN EYES!...
WHERE IS RENO RIGHT NOW?!
NO ONE HAS SEEN HIM SINCE THE HUNT.
THAT CAN'T BE POSSIBLE!
HIS CASTLE IN DUNKKAR IS EMPTY AS WELL... I'VE ALREADY SENT OUT MY SUBORDINATES TO FIND HIM...

BUNGLING FOOL!
I TOLD YOU TO GIVE HER SOME TROUBLE-- NOT TO HELP HER WITH HER GROWTH!
IF SHE DOES CHOOSE EHREN, DO YOU REALLY THINK YOUR TITLE OF CHANCELLOR WILL PROTECT YOU?!
WHAT THE- ?! WHY IS EVERYONE BITING MY HEAD OFF TODAY?!
IT MUSTN'T GO ON THIS WAY...I ONCE THE CITIZENS FIND OUT THAT THE CAUSE OF THE QUEEN'S GROWTH IS EHREN, THEY'LL BEGIN TO WAVER!
WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS...
WOULDN'T IT SOLVE ALL OUR PROBLEMS IF YOU JUST UNDERWENT THE GROWTH AS WELL, PRINCESS?
I THINK THAT AS OF NOW, THAT WOULD BE THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION...
IF YOU EVER SAY WHAT YOU JUST SAID AGAIN...I AM GOING TO ADD SCRATCHES TO THAT UGLY FACE OF YOURS...
I'M MERELY SAYING THAT MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T PLACE THE ENTIRE BURDEN UPON MY SHOULDERS.
BESIDES, YOU SHOULD CONSIDER ALL OF YOUR OPTIONS.
WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER. I'M NOT GOING TO BE THE ONLY ONE WHO SUFFERS THE REPERCUSSIONS.
YOU DARE USE THAT FORKED TONGUE TO BLAME ME FOR YOUR OWN POWERLESSNESS AND INABILITY?!

THE CITIZENS MIGHT GROW UNEASY...
...BUT I'M THINKING OF SPREADING A RUMOR THAT KENO IS THE CAUSE FOR THE QUEEN'S GROWTH.
PRINCESS LIBERA, YOU SHOULD PLAN A COURSE OF ACTION YOURSELF.
BECAUSE IF THE QUEEN DOES INDEED CHOOSE EHREN, EVEN PHANTASMA'S CURSE WILL BE OF NO USE...
HE'S SUGGESTING I GROW... BY BORROWING THE DARK POWERS.
TO FALL INTO THE EMBRACES OF MEN WHOM I HAVE NO DESIRE FOR INSIDE OF MY OWN HALLUCINATIONS. THAT...
...I CAN'T DO THAT... I DON'T WANT TO GROW USING METHODS SUCH AS THOSE!
I'M NOT GOING TO BECOME LIKE MY SISTERS...
NEVER!
BUT I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE TO A FAKE QUEEN LIKE HER, EITHER!!!

THERE HAS GOT TO BE A WAY...
I'M NOT GOING TO STAND IDLY BY AND SEND EHREN INTO HER...WAIT...
THE MISTLETOE DAGGER!!
IF I JUST HAD THAT...
...I WOULD BE ABLE TO TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT THE QUEEN! PERHAPS...
IF ALL GOES WELL, I MAY BE ABLE TO TAKE DOWN BOTH THE QUEEN...
...AND THE CAUSE OF THIS WRETCHED CURSE ON PHANTASMA! WHO KNOWS...?
THEN...I NEED TO FIND RIENO FIRST... AND THEN...
DRAT!
BROTHER NEVER EVEN SHARED THE SECRETS OF PHANTASMA WITH ME...!
HE GAVE ME THE CHANCELLORSHIP!...
...YET MY WORLD CRUMBLES WHILE EHREN IS PRIMED TO BE THE ONE?!
WON'T TAKE OUT YOUR ANGER IN THE GARDEN, OUR MAIN!

SCHILLER...!
OH...! YOUR MAJESTY...!
THANK YOU!

I'M SO GLAD THAT YOU CAME BACK SAFE AND SOUND!
ARE REALLY YOU THAT HAPPY THAT I'M SAFE...?
O...THAT EHREN IS SAFE...?
HA HA! I'M JOKING, OF COURSE! THOUGH IF YOU ARE THAT HAPPY, I'D LIKE TO RECEIVE A GIFT FROM YOU...
YOUR MAJESTY...! DON'T LIKE FREEBIES
HAT? JUST SAY THE WORD! I'LL IVE YOU NYTHING..!
ANYTHING, YOU SAY... BUT I HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO REALLY THINK OF A REWARD...
SO, INSTEAD...
...I'D LIKE TO RECEIVE A KISS.
ON MY HAND..
AND ..ON MY FOREHEAD..
AND...ON MY LIPS...
OH, THERE ARE MANY OTHER PLACES I'D LIKE YOU TO KISS... BUT I'LL KEEP IT AT THAT... FOR NOW. THERE ARE MANY EYES WATCHING US, YOU KNOW...
PLUS, THIS IS A BOOK FOR YOUNG GIRLS...
IS...THAT ALL?

AH! THE LEFT HAND TOO
SMOOCH!
HA
SMOOCH!
HA HA...!
MMMMMM
YOUR MAJESTY... THANK YOU.
HOWEVER...
CAN YOU GIVE THE SAME REWARD TO EHREN OVER THERE WHO HAS BEEN WATCHING US WITH AN ENVIOUS, YET SCARY LOOK ON HIS FACE?
WHAT...?
WOULD YOU HAVE BEEN JUST AS WILLING TO ACCEPT THIS REQUEST IF HE HAD ASKED YOU?
SCHILLER... YOU SURE DO HAVE A WICKED SENSE OF HUMOR...
SCHILLER! YOU RAT!

I MUST KNOW. PLEASE ANSWER.
PROBABLY..
BUT...NOT AS COMFORTABLY AS WITH YOU, SCHILLER...
THEN... WHAT ABOUT RIENO?
IF RIENO HAD ASKED THE SAME THING..

YUNA! WAIT!
Y-YOU'RE, YOU'RE TOO MUCH.
YOU'RE SUCH A MEANIE, SCHILLER!

YOUR MAJES--
PA!
LET GO OF ME, YOU CREEP!
EVEN THE MERE THOUGHT OF HIM BRINGS TEARS TO HER EYES. YOUR RIVAL...
ISN'T ME.
SOMEONE WHO JUST LIKES HER, OR IS LOYAL TO THE POINT OF DEATH TO HER...OR WHO JUST LOOKS LIKE ONE OF HER BROTHERS...
...WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO DEFEAT THE ONE WHO BRINGS TEARS TO HER EYES AND MAKES HER BODY TREMBLE WITH JUST THE THOUGHT OF HIM. !
YOU'RE EVEN WORSE OFF THAN LEON.
TO BE HONEST, HALF OF YOUR HEART IS BENT ON GAINING POLITICAL POWER AND SOLVING THE RIDDLE OF PHANTASMA, RATHER THAN THE RIDDLE OF YUNA'S HEART

IF YOU'RE NOT LIKE THIS MANIAC, IF YOU DON'T BECOME A FOOL FOR THE GIRL YOU LOVE,
SURE, YOU MIGHT TOUCH HER IN SOME WAYS—BUT IT'LL BE HARD FOR YOU TO TAKE CHARGE OVER HER ENTIRE HEART
SCHILLER LIHITE, I WILL ABSOLUTELY PAY YOU BACK FOR YOUR HELP, BUT DON'T YOU EVER TELL ME WHAT TO DO!
DON'T MISUNDERSTAND .. THIS ISN'T FOR YOU--
BLAST! HOW CAN WE COOPERATE AND WORK TOGETHER WITH SUCH ARROGANCE. !
MR. HIGH AND MIGHTY !
BUT IT'S STILL A SHOCK...WHAT DOES THE QUEEN THINK OF ME...? I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE JUST SNIFFLE... KISSED ME AS IF IT WERE NOTHING...!
WAAHHH
I JUST WANT TO KNOW THAT SHE DOESN'T OVERLOOK ME AS A MAN...
HEY---EHREN HWERUSUTE! MY GRANDFATHER WANTS TO MEET WITH YOU. HE WANTS TO GO ON A SECRET DATE WITH YOU!
HEME...?

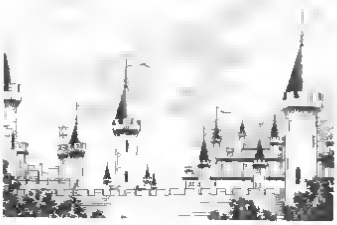
IS HE SAYING,

..THAT I NEED TO BECOME A FOOL BLINDED BY LOVE?

TO LOSE ALL RATIONALE...

TO RUN AROUND WITHOUT REGARD TO THIS OR THAT...?

THEN, WHAT ABOUT MY PROMISE TO PROTECT HER? WHAT ABOUT THE MANY PROMISES THAT I'VE MADE TO HER...?



YOU CALLED FOR ME, YOUR MAJESTY?
AH, JUST A SECOND, HERMENY...
YOU GET IT? YOU JUST NEED TO BUILD THE SCHOOL LIKE THIS.

SUCH...MY SHOULDERS
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE BLUEPRINTS FOR THE HOSPITAL?
YEAH.
LET'S JUST TRY IT...
WHAT'S WITH THE CARPENTERS AND PLASTERERS...?
OH—WE'RE BUILDING A SCHOOL AND A HOSPITAL.
SCHOOL?
HOSPITAL?
HERMENY, YOU NEED TO HELP TOO
HERMENY, YOU'LL BE THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR...
SCHILLER WILL BE THE MUSIC TEACHER...
...EHREN WILL TEACH HISTORY AND SOCIOLOGY...
...AND I'LL...WELL I'LL TEACH THE NATURE COURSE!
WHAT ABOUT LEON?
I SAW HOW THE CHILDREN IN EACH VILLAGE WERE JUST SCATTERED HERE AND THERE, COMPLETELY NEGLECTED.
DON'T YOU THINK THAT IT'D BE BEST IF I TAUGHT PHYSICAL EDUCATION WITH YOU, RMENY? SINCE THAT ERSE HAS NOTHING DO WITH LETTERS.
THEY WERE EITHER FIGHTING ALL DAY LONG OR KEEPING THEMSELVES BUSY WITH PETTY THIEVERY...
I DON'T MUCH LIKE STUDYING EITHER...
...BUT...IF THESE CHILDREN WERE TO GAIN A GOOD EDUCATION...AND ATTAIN KNOWLEDGE IN VARIOUS FIELDS THEN MAYBE PHANTASIA WILL BECOME A BETTER KINGDOM IN THE DAYS TO COME.

I KNOW... THAT WHETHER WE DO THIS OR THAT THE DESTINY FOR PHANTASMA HAS ALREADY BEEN PREDETERMINED...
THAT EVERYTHING HINGES ON THE HEART OF THE QUEEN, RIGHT?
I...WANT TO KNOW...ABOUT THE PAST QUEENS OF PHANTASMA...
TELL ME, HERMENY..
SPEAKING ABOUT THE PAST QUEENS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.
BUT... WHY?
BECAUSE IT IS... INSIGNIFICANT.
I'LL DECIDE WHETHER IT'S INSIGNIFICANT OR NOT!
YOU KNOW THAT WHATEVER I SAY IS ALL...WHATCHA CALL IT? A ROYAL MANDATE, RIGHT?
WELL, IF YOU DON'T TELL ME, I WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO PUNISH YOU, HERMENY!
HEH.

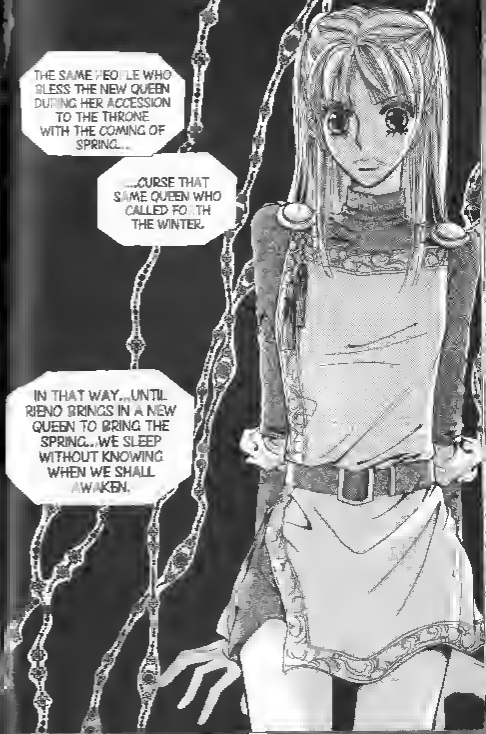
ARE YOU SCOFFING AT ME?!
I'M SORRY, YOUR MAJESTY. IT ISN'T THAT...
YOU JUST LOOKED SO CUTE.
BUT YOU MAY REGRET HEARING IT LATER.
AND...EVEN IF YOU ASK "WHY," IT'S STILL NO USE.
YOU CAN'T AVOID HAVING YOUR MEMORY A LITTLE MUDDLED AFTER TAKING HEMEL'S SLEEPING PILL AND SLEEPING FOR A VERY LONG TIME...

THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY ELEVEN QUEENS BEFORE YOU...
YOU'RE THE TWELFTH ONE.
THE QUEEN BEFORE YOU WAS "EL" BEFORE COMING TO PHANTASMA.
...SHE WAS A MEMBER OF UPPER CLASS SOCIETY...SO SHE WAS NO STRANGER T THE ELITE CLASS.
SHE LOVED MAINTAINING A BEAUTIFUL PHYSICAL APPEARANCE AND ENJOYED EXTRAVAGANCE. NOT ONLY WAS SHE VERY DIGNIFIED AND GRACEFUL...
SHE WAS A VERY GOOD SINGER AND HAD A CHEERFUL DISPOSITION, SO SHE WAS VERY POPULAR.

EVEN RENO, WHO HAD BEEN DISINTERESTED IN THE QUEENS BEFORE HER...
...SEEMED TO TAKE INTEREST IN QUEEN ELL
THE TIME THAT RENO SPENT AWAY FROM HIS HOME AND APPEARED IN THE ROYAL PALACE INCREASED...
UNTIL ONE DAY, RUMORS BEGAN THAT RENO AND QUEEN ELL HAD A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP AROUND THAT TIME. THE QUEEN JUST... VANISHED
I WAS THE MOST SURPRISED. I HAD ALWAYS FOLLOWED HER AROUND LIKE A SECOND SHADOW... BUT STILL SHE DISAPPEARED.
EVERYONE SEARCHED FOR HER IN A HALF-CRAZED FRENZY. EACH PASSING MOMENT FILLED WITH MORE DREAD THAN THE LAST...

UNTIL TWO DAYS LATER, WHEN THE QUEEN WAS DISCOVERED ON THE GROUNDS OF RENO'S CASTLE.
EFREN'S FATHER, WHO WAS CHANCELLOR AT THE TIME, CONFINED THE QUEEN IN THE TOWER.
HE LAID DOWN A ROYAL DECREE THAT NO ONE WAS TO COME NEAR THE QUEEN.
SOON, A COLD WAVE HIT THE ENTIRE KINGDOMS.
AND WE ALL HURRIED TO MAKE THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE WINTER. NO ONE HAD TIME NOR LEISURE TO TAKE INTEREST IN THE QUEEN.
BECAUSE THE END OF SPRING MEANS THAT THERE IS NO LONGER ANY HOPE FOR THE QUEEN.

AND THEN?
THAT'S ALL.
THE ONLY ONE WHO PROBABLY KNOWS THE FATE OF ALL THE QUEENS IS RIENO HIMSELF.
BECAUSE IF WE DON'T TAKE HEMEL'S SLEEPING PILL BEFORE THEN WE'LL ALL FREEZE TO DEATH OR DIE FROM OLD AGE.

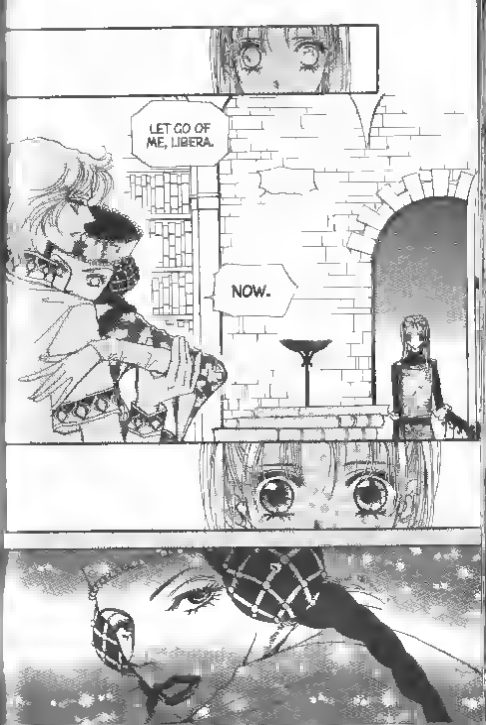

THE SAME PEOPLE WHO BLESS THE NEW QUEEN DURING HER ACCESSION TO THE THRONE WITH THE COMING OF SPRING...
...CURSE THAT SAME QUEEN WHO CALLED FORTH THE WINTER.
IN THAT WAY,,,UNTIL RIENO BRINGS IN A NEW QUEEN TO BRING THE SPRING...WE SLEEP WITHOUT KNOWING WHEN WE SHALL AWAKEN.

MY BROTHER, HERMAN, WAS IN CHARGE OF GUARDING AND ESCORTING THE ROYAL BLOODLINE OF QUEENS IN PHANTASMA.
HE DIED IN A FIGHT AGAINST RIENO.
I HAVE BECOME MY BROTHER'S SUCCESSOR IN THAT WHENEVER RIENO BRINGS FORTH A NEW QUEEN, I AM THE ONE IN CHARGE OF ESCORTING THEM.
THAT IS, I WAS UNTIL THE GUARDIAN KNIGHTS CAME ALONG.
I THINK THAT IT IS A RELIEF...
...THAT YOU ARE TOO YOUNG TO KNOW A MAN.
AND... THAT YOU WILL ALWAYS HAVE THOSE RENOWNED GUARDIAN KNIGHTS BY YOUR SIDE...
UNTIL NOW, AS I WAS ESCORTING THE COUNTLESS QUEENS WHO CAME BEFORE YOU, I'VE SEEN ALL OF THEM WAIL AND FALL INTO SORROW BECAUSE OF RIENO.
IF IT IS AS THEY SAY... AND EHREN HWERUSUTE IS THE OBJECT OF YOUR AFFECTIONS.
...THEN I, TOO, AM PREPARED TO GIVE UP MY LIFE FOR YOUR LOVE.
IT IS MY SOLEMN VOW... THAT EVEN IF THE ONE I MUST FIGHT AGAINST IS RIENO... SHALL STAND MY GROUND AND GUARD THE LOVE BETWEEN YOU AND EHREN.

!
WHAT THE—?!
OH EHREN...!
LI...BE, RA...?

WHAT'S WRONG? LET GO OF ME AND TELL ME.
NO...! DON'T WANT TO...
EHREN, IT'S A LIE, ISN'T IT? TELL ME THERE'S NO WAY THAT THIS CAN BE POSSIBLE!
HOW CAN THE QUEEN HAVE UNDERGONE THIS GROWTH BECAUSE OF YOU...?
IT'S A LIE! THERE'S NO WAY THAT THIS CAN BE...!
MY SISTERS USED THE DARK POWERS TO LOOK INTO THE FUTURE— AND IT SAID THAT THIS IS NOT THE TRUTH!
THAT YOU'RE NOT THE CAUSE OF HER GROWTH...!
I THINK THAT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S TELLING THE LIE.
LET GO OF ME. I CAN'T BREATHE. LIBERA...!

YOU'LL FIND OUT WHETHER MY WORDS ARE A LIE OR NOT.
MY SPIRITUAL SENSE HAS NEVER BEEN WRONG!
THE TIME IS NEARING WHEN THE QUEEN WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO CHOOSE THE PATH OF HER DESTINY...
SO... EHREN...
I WANT TO HAVE YOUR BABY... BEFORE THE WINTER COMES AGAIN...


LET GO OF ME, LIBERA.
NOW.

YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE!
OH WE, A DUKE!
YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY. THE QUEEN HAS "GROWN.
I THINK IT'S BECAUSE OF ONE OF US KNIGHTS.
THIS'LL BE A FUN LITTLE PRANK...!
I THINK IT'S BECAUSE OF THE ONE WHO STAKED HIS LIFE AND FOUGHT FOR HER IN THE FOREST OF DARKNESS.

HEY—LEON!
LEON! YOU SHOULDN'T BE OUT OF BED SO SOON!
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
LEON...!

HE'S TRULY A FOOL WHO CAN'T BE STOPPED...
WHERE IS THE QUEEN, HER MAJESTY?
SPEAK, WOMAN!

HER MAJESTY'S HAIR GREW?!
두근
두근
IF IT'S INDEED BECAUSE OF THE ONE WHO STAKED HIS LIFE TO FIGHT FOR HER IN THE FOREST OF DARKNESS, THEN,
두근
NO ..I NEED TO SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYES...!
I GUESS GRANDMA LIHITIS PROPHECY WASN'T WRONG AFTER ALL...!
UGH...MY HEART IS BEATING SO FAST ...IT'S DRIVING ME CRAZY!
두근
두근
IT'S YUNA!
AND BARIEL..!
YUNA!
YUNA! WAIT!
WAIT!
HUK! IT'S TRUE...!
SHE'S GOTTEN SO PRETTY..
WAIT...BUT...WHY AM I HIDING?
THERE'S NO REASON FOR IT
YUNA...
TONIGHT ...I'M GOING TO LEAVE THE PALACE FOR A LITTLE WHILE. I HAVE SOME BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO.

I'VE SEEN IN THIS SITUATION BEFORE...
I NEED TO GO OUT! I NEED TO GO AND GREET YUNA.
I WANT TO SEE HER MORE CLEARLY. YUNA'S TRANSFORMATION...
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
BEFORE I LEAVE, COULD I... HOLD YOU ...JUST ONCE...?
I THINK... IT'LL GIVE ME STRENGTH...
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE DANGEROUS ARE YOU ...?
SIGH.
I'LL TRY TO COME BACK AS SOON AS I CAN.

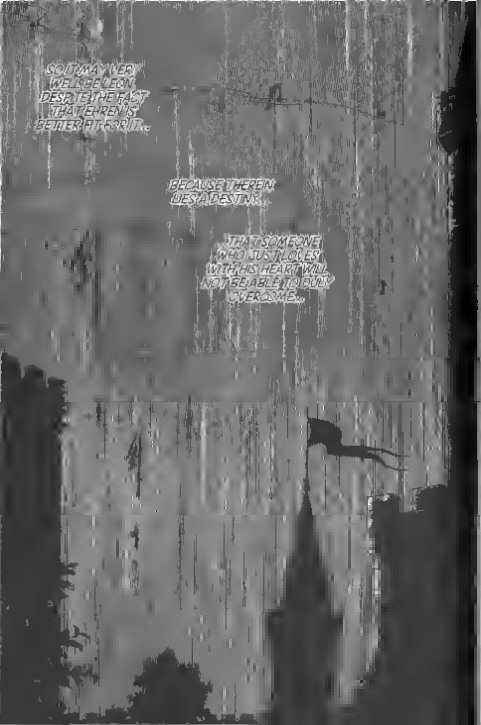
I KEEP LOSING CONFIDENCE.
I'M SCARED...
I DON'T KNOW WHY
WHAT SHOULD I DO, EHREN...?
YOU LYING SNAKE...!
ER...I'M SORRY...?
YUNA...
SOB
SOB...
THAT'S WHY YOU NEED TO STOP AND LISTEN TO THE WHOLE STORY...

HAVE CONFIDENCE. THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. I YOU'VE DONE WELL UP 'TIL NOW
YOU'RE GONNA DO GREAT IN TH FUTURE, TOO.
NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE SAYS, YOU'RE OUR GREAT QUEEN.
WHAT IF... WINTER COMES..? YOU WON'T LEAVE ME, WILL YOU EHREN..?
YUN...
THAT'S NOT GONN HAPPEN!
WINTER IS NOT GOING TO COME!
I'M NOT GONNA LET THAT HAPPEN!
SHE THINKS I MIGHT LOSE TO RIENO...

I REFUSE TO LOSE YUNA TO HIM!
EHREN...
I SWEAR I WON'T!
DON'T WORRY...
YUNA...
EHREN...
HUH?
SHE TURNED AWAY?!
쿵
쿵
쿵쿵

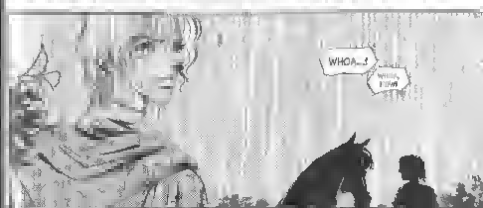
TH-THANKS, THANKS TO YOU...I FEEL A LOT BETTER NOW...
WHAT AM I SAYING...? MY HEAD IS SWIMMING...
SORRY...!
STUPID...WHAT THE HELL ARE YOUR HANDS FOR? YOU GOTTA USE YOUR HANDS...!
RECEIVED A FRAGMENT MAP OF SHADOW...
YET AN ETHNIC TYPE IN SHACK AND BUTTONED...
WHAT WAS THAT...? THAT GREAT AND MIGHTY EHREN CAN'T EVEN KISS RIGHT...?
HEH HEH
MPH!
THAT WAS DANGEROUS.
THEN I GUESS I'M STILL AHEAD OF THE PACK, WHAT WITH BEING COVERED WITH HER KISSES...
STILL SERVES YOU RIGHT
HE'S GONNA FEEL SO SMALL FOR A WHILE...

LEIRA...
HE'S... PROBABLY IN A LOT OF ANGUISH RIGHT NOW...
BUT YOU HAVE SOUGHT TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING TOO EARLY.
EVEN BEFORE YOUR RETURN, TO BECOME THE QUEEN'S VOICE, IT'S NOT GONE TO BE AN EASY LIFE.
THE SEVERITY OF PROJECTION IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THIS!!


SO I'M A VERY FORTUNATE PERSON, DESPITE THE FACT THAT EHREN'S BETTER WITH A KNIFE...
BECAUSE EHREN HAS A DESTINY...
...THAT SOMEONE WHO JUST LOOKS AT WITH HIS HEART WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BURY OR SMEAR...

SIR EHREN, THE PREPARATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE.
YOU MUST LEAVE SOON...

YUNA...


WHOA...!
WHOA, STOP!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE IN THE RAIN, ?
YOU NEED TO - HURRY - BACK...
YOU'RE WAITING FOR ME, OF COURSE...
- I'LL HURRY BACK.

YOU'RE GONNA CATCH COLD...
HURRY AND GO INSIDE.
EHREN...
I'M SORRY!
ABOUT EARLIER. AT THAT MOMENT, ...JUST FOR A SECOND...I WAS SO AFRAID...OF YOUR WORDS AND THE TOUCH OF YOUR LIPS...
THE FEELING WAS SO STRONG, SO STRONG THAT IT MADE ME FEEL TOO VULNERABLE...AND BEFORE I EVEN KNEW IT...I RAN FROM THAT FEELING!
TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 3

YOU TWO STOP FIGHTING THIS INSTANT!
HMPH!
HE STARTED IT!
I SAY LET THEM DUKE IT OUT—
FIGHT!! FIGHT!!
WHO SHALL I ROOT FOR?